Abstract of the Disclosure

[0052] A method and apparatus encode a source data stream via convolutional encoding. One or more encoded data streams are interleaved and transmitted on one or more transmission channels. Data groups generated via convolutional encoding are interleaved via time-interleaving functions to disperse selected bits within puncture groups of the data groups, bits in between data groups, and bits in selected sets of data groups to facilitate reconstruction of the source data stream from at least a portion of the interleaved data stream received on at least one transmission channel. The time-interleaving functions are selected to facilitate reconstruction of the source data stream from one transmission channel following continuous blockage. Subsets of bits of puncture groups are selected to allow reconstruction of the source data stream from the transmission channels using a minimum number of subsets. Multiple combinations of subsets can be received via two or more transmission channels to reconstruct the source data stream following blockage of one channel. Decoding is performed via a Viterbi decoder.